

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing system for use in printing image objects of any of a plurality of different object types, said system comprising:
 - 5 a printer; and
 - a printer control device with a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.
- 10 2. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a control for invoking said first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.
- 15 3. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface further includes a second option for associating object descriptors with a selected object type and wherein, responsive to selection of an object descriptor, said second option associates printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.
- 20 4. The printing system of claim 3, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a first control for invoking an option of automatically associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a second control for manually associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics.
- 25 5. The printing system of claim 3, further comprising a third option for defining a custom object descriptor.
6. The printing system of claim 4, further comprising a third option for saving a set of associations.

7. The printing system of claim 6, further comprising a fourth option for selecting a default configuration of associations.

8. A method for controlling the quality of printing of a composite document
5 having different types of objects, comprising:

providing a list of object types;
providing a list of printer-independent print-quality characteristics;
selecting an object type from the list of object types; and
associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic with
10 the selected object type to be printed by said printer.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

providing a list of object descriptors;
selecting an object descriptor; and
15 associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with
said selected object descriptor.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

defining a custom object descriptor;
20 adding the custom object descriptor to the list of object descriptors; and
associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with
said custom object descriptor.

11. The method of claim 8, further comprising saving a set of associations.
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12. The method of claim 11, further comprising loading said saved set of
associations.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising providing a default configuration
30 of associations.